

TEXAS COURT OF APPEALS, FIFTEENTH DISTRICT

Cedric M. Scott, PhD v. General Land Office of the State of Texas

Scott v. General Land Office · No. 15-25-00217-CV · Decided November 25, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is an appellant’s pro se motion to strike the Texas General Land Office’s motion to dismiss an appeal for lack of jurisdiction. The appellant argues that orders issued by the trial judge are void because of alleged judicial disqualification, that the appellee remains in procedural default for failing to answer the live amended petition, and that an earlier email does not constitute a knowing waiver. The filing includes a proposed order granting the motion to strike and an electronic certificate of service.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Texas Court of Appeals, Fifteenth District
JURISDICTION	Texas
DECIDED	November 25, 2025
DOCKET	15-25-00217-CV
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appellant filed a motion to strike the General Land Office's motion to dismiss the appeal for lack of jurisdiction. The document includes a proposed order, but the source does not contain a court-signed order or an appellate opinion resolving the motion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	none; source is an appellant's motion and proposed order, not a court opinion
PARTIES	Cedric M. Scott, PhD v. General Land Office of the State of Texas

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- appellate jurisdiction
- motions to dismiss
- default
- due process

PRACTICE AREAS

- appellate procedure
- civil procedure
- constitutional law
- remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether alleged orders entered by a disqualified trial judge are void and may support dismissal of the appeal.
2. Whether the General Land Office's alleged failure to answer the operative second amended petition prevents it from seeking dismissal or other affirmative relief.
3. Whether appellant's prior email stating that she did not oppose dismissal constituted a knowing and voluntary waiver.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Because all such orders are void ab initio, they cannot support dismissal in this Court.” (3)

“A defaulting party may not request affirmative relief, challenge the merits, or move for dismissal until it has properly answered and rejoined issue.” (4)

“A valid waiver must be intentional, knowing, and based on full knowledge of the relevant facts.” (5)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The motion alleges that Judge Cory R. Liu previously represented the General Land Office in matters substantially related to federal CDBG-DR funds, compliance oversight, and civil-rights enforcement. It further alleges that Judge Liu presided over the case, entered adverse procedural rulings, and later recused himself on November 21, 2025. Appellant also asserts that the General Land Office failed to answer the second amended petition filed August 12, 2025 and therefore remained in procedural default.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The appeal was transferred from the Third Court of Appeals and arises from the 250th Judicial District Court of Travis County, Texas, trial court cause number D-1-GN-25-000006. Appellant asserted that the trial judge was disqualified because of prior representation of the General Land Office, that rulings issued by the judge were void, and that the General Land Office had not answered the operative second amended petition. The filing asks the appellate court to deny or strike the appellee's motion to dismiss, but no actual disposition by the appellate court appears in the source.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In re Union Pac. Res. Co., 969 S.W.2d 427 (Tex. 1998)
- In re City of Lubbock, 624 S.W.3d 506 (Tex. 2021)
- In re Union Carbide Corp., 273 S.W.3d 152 (Tex. 2008)
- Buckholts Indep. Sch. Dist. v. Glaser, 632 S.W.2d 146 (Tex. 1982)
- Cox v. Cox, 183 S.W.2d 206 (Tex. 1944)
- Stoner v. Thompson, 578 S.W.2d 679 (Tex. 1979)

- Paramount Pipe & Supply Co. v. Muhr, 749 S.W.2d 491 (Tex. 1988)
- Caperton v. A.T. Massey Coal Co., 556 U.S. 868 (2009)
- In re Columbia Med. Ctr. of Las Colinas, Subsidiary, L.P., 290 S.W.3d 204 (Tex. 2009)

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